

**CHEPSTOW HOUSE,
ROSS,
HEREFORDSHIRE,**

June, 1914.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ross Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1913. I am glad to be able to report that the district maintains its healthy character, the net death-rate for last year being 13.59 per 1,000 as compared with 13.17 for the year before, showing a very slight increase.

The birth-rate shows a small but steady decrease, the rate for 1913 being 19.26 per 1,000, as against 19.74 for 1912—but this is favourable as compared with the decrease in 1912—11, when it was at the rate of 2. per 1,000.

The Infant Mortality statistics show a good improvement—14 children under the age of one year dying in 1913, as against 21 in 1912, and there is no doubt that the efforts, both official and private, made to combat the unnecessary deaths of babies is bearing fruit more and more every year.

I am glad to note too, that the number of illegitimate births shows no increase on last year, and that no death of an illegitimate child has occurred.

We can sincerely congratulate ourselves that the number of cases of Infectious Disease is practically the same as last year, when we consider the extraordinary wave of Scarlet Fever that has swept over the whole country, and we are very fortunate in having had only 13 cases in the district in the whole of last year. And I am happy to say there were no deaths at all from any of the infectious diseases. Twenty-one cases of Tuberculosis (all forms) were notified to me during the year, as compared with twenty in 1912—showing that the disease is certainly not on the increase.

Before going into details I beg to congratulate your Council on being able to offer you a very satisfactory statement as to the health of the district.

Your district comprises 61,063 acres, the soil consisting chiefly of old red sandstone, with a subsoil of red marl or clay.

The industry is almost entirely agricultural.

The population at the Census of 1911 was 10,421, and the estimated population at the end of June, 1913, 10,445.

The number of inhabited houses at the same Census was 2,432, with an average of 4.29 occupants to each house. The great majority of these people are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and are housed in villages, or cottages scattered over the district—of the houses in the villages the majority are fair, but the same cannot be said of very many of the dwellings one has to visit and inspect, especially in the outlying parts of the district, some miserable and insanitary hovels being met with, and it is rather a cause for wonder that more more cases of over-crowding have not been met with.

As will be seen in the details given, of work done under the Housing and Town Planning Act, good progress has been made towards improving the Home-conditions of the Agricultural Labourer. In a wide district like this, the results of our work under this Act must seem small, but if we take the actual figures it will be seen that good progress has really been made.

The question of the Water Supply in all Rural districts is always one of difficulty, but I am pleased to say that our district is really favourably situated in that respect—there being in nearly the whole of the area a sufficiency of wells and streams to provide the inhabitants with a supply of water all through the year, and although cases of water contamination sometimes occur it has always been possible to remedy the cause.

Of course, as in all Country districts, the drainage and sewage is of a rather primitive type, the closets being largely of the dry earth type and the excreta collected and buried, or used for manure.

The condition of the various Schools can be considered as satisfactory, both with regard to sanitary conveniences and water supply—one School (Bridstow) has had a closet system installed which could be very well be copied by other Schools in the district.

It has been necessary to close eight Schools in the district during the year—for varying periods—in seven cases owing to the prevalence of measles, and in one for mumps—and in other Schools visits have been paid when cases of infectious disease have occurred, and inspection of the children's throats, etc., have been made.

The Milk Supply of the district is to be considered as distinctly good, the milk for home use being generally obtained from the neighbouring farm.

There are seventeen registered Milk-purveyors in the district, all of whose premises have been and are regularly inspected. A difficulty one has to cope with, with regard to these is the proximity of manure heaps to the milking sheds. Flies breed in these heaps of filth, and can, and do infect milk as well as other articles of food they settle on, and the prevalence of summer diarrhoea in babies with its large mortality, is without doubt traceable to the pollution of milk, etc., by flies.

There are only three Slaughter Houses in the district—two of which may be held to be in fair sanitary condition, but the third is not, and though promises have been made to rectify matters, insistence on the carrying out of instructions must be asked for.

As will be seen by the appended Table, 322 houses have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and—where defects have been found—by myself during the year. On the whole as stated in my Supplementary report of last year, we can consider that with some exceptions the Housing Capacity of the district is fairly satisfactory, and that in nearly every case the owners or their agents, have been willing to carry out the necessary repairs and improvements. There are of course some houses quite unfit for healthy living in, and in these cases one finds that the landlords prefer to empty them of the tenants, and leave them unoccupied and to fall into ruin.

The Population of the District increases very slowly, and although few new houses have been erected, pace is being kept with the population increase.

With regard to the Sanitary Administration of the District, I am glad that we have an Isolation Cottage of our own now—the use of which in isolating cases from crowded houses, and so preventing further spread of infectious disease has been more than once exemplified. The real economy of maintaining a hospital of our own can be easily proved when we remember how in past years, it has been necessary to obtain special nurses, erect tents for them, supply provisions for whole households, etc.

In all cases of Tuberculosis notified to me, I have visited the house and where necessary made subsequent visits, and have generally endeavoured to help the County Tuberculosis Officer in his work in my district.

I enclose the Tables required by the Local Government Board and a summary of work performed by the Sanitary Inspector.

Your obedient Servant,

M. O. H.

No. of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17.	No. considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	No. of representations made to Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	No. of Closing Orders made.	No. of Dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders.	No. of Dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.	No. of Demolition Orders made.	No. of Dwelling-houses Demolished.	No. of Dwelling houses made in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation under Section 14 & 15.	Houses erected or in course of erection in or near site of demolished houses in lieu thereof.	Inhabited houses closed and remaining void or used for other purposes.
322	2	2	2	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	1	80	Nil.	9

Two Houses have been Re-inhabited without closing orders having been determined.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	BIRTHS.				TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.					
	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Un-corrected Number.	Nett. Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Resi-dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age. Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	At all Ages. Number.	Rate.				
1908	... 10798 ...	212 ...	— ...	19.6 ...	115 ...	10.6 ...	—	8 ...	19 ...	90. ...	115 ...	10.6				
1909	... Not available	225 ...	— ...	20.	Not available		Not available		20 ...	80. ...	Not available					
1910	... 10995 ...	212 ...	— ...	19.28 ...	104 ...	9.45 ...	—	23 ...	16 ...	89.6 ...	104 ...	9.45				
1911	... 10440 ...	219 ...	223 ...	21.36 ...	116 ...	11.12 ...	—	27 ...	15 ...	67.21 ..	143 ...	13.79				
1912	.. 10480 ..	206 ...	207 ...	19.74 ...	121 ...	11.45 ...	—	17 ..	21 ...	101.45 ...	138 ...	13.17				
1913	... 10445 ...	197 ...	201 ...	19.26 ...	126 ..	12.06 ..	—	16 ...	15 ...	74.62 ..	142 ...	13.59				

Area of District in Acres

(land and inland water) ...

61,063.

Total Population at all ages, 10,421.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2,432.

Average Number of Persons per House, 4

At Census, 1911

(cf. Census, Vol. V.)

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.										NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										
										AT ALL AGES.		AT AGES—YEARS.								
												Under 1.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	...	—	..	—	...	—	...	—
Cholera	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Diptheria (including Membranous croup)	9	..	—	...	—	...	1	...	7	...	1	...	—	...	—
Erysipelas	2	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	—
Scarlet Fever	13	...	—	...	—	...	10	...	—	...	3	...	—	...	—
Typhus Fever	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Enteric Fever	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—
Relapsing Fever—Continued Fever	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Puerperal Fever	2	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	—	...	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Poliomyelitis	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	21	...	—	...	1	...	7	...	—	...	10	...	3	...	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Measles	20	...	—	...	—	...	4	...	12	...	4	...	—	...	—
Totals	68	...	—	...	1	...	22	...	20	...	20	...	5	...	—

A House for the treatment and Isolation of Infectious Cases is now provided.

Cases of Phthisis are sent to a Sanitorium.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.																								
Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.																								
CAUSES OF DEATH.				ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.												
All causes—																								
Certified	126	...	15	...	—	...	3	...	3	...	1	...	10	...	31	...	63	...	—		
Uncertified	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
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Enteric Fever	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Small Pox	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Measles	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Scarlet Fever	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Whooping Cough	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Diphtheria and Croup	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Influenza	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—		
Erysipelas	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	9	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	5	...	3	...	—	...	—		
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Other Tuberculous Diseases...	2	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—		
Cancer, Malignant Disease	13	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	6	...	7	...	—		
Rheumatic Fever...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Meningitis	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Organic Heart Disease	11	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	6	...	4	...	—		
Bronchitis	13	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	10	...	—		
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	3	...	—		
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—		
Cirrhosis Liver	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Alcoholism	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	—		
Puerperal Fever	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	14	...	14	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	6	...	—	...	—	...	3	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	—		
Suicide	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	—		
Other Defined Diseases	45	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	6	...	37	...	—		
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—		
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Totals				126	...	15	...	—	...	3	...	3	...	1	...	10	...	31	...	63	...	—

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Nett Births in the Year	{	Legitimate.....	194
		Illegitimate ...	7

Nett Deaths in the Year of	{	Legitimate Infants.....	15
		Illegitimate Infants.....	nil

Summary of Work performed by the Sanitary Inspector.

1	Infectious Diseases inquired into and reported upon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
2	Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
3	Scarlet Fever Cases	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	13
4	Diphtheria Cases	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	9
5	Typhoid Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
6	Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	2
7	NUMBER OF PERSONS LICENSED TO STORE PETROLEUM AND CALCIUM :—								
	Petroleum Licenses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
	Carbide of Calcium	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	12
8	HOUSING INSPECTION ACT :—								
	Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	322
	Houses re-inspected, as per Report	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	428
	Houses repaired	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	80
	Houses part repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
	Cases where Houses had not been repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153
	Houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	2
	Overcrowding cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
9	NUISANCES :—								
	Nuisances	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	23
	Nuisances abated	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
10	WATER SUPPLY :—								
	Samples of Water taken and submitted for analysis	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	13
	Samples of Water pronounced good	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	11
11	SLAUGHTER HOUSES :—								
	Slaughter Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Nuisance at Slaughtering premises	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1
12	DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS :—								
	Cowkeepers registered	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	17
	Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	17
13	EXCREMENTAL DISPOSAL :—								
	New closets and closets repaired	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	53
	New drains	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	8
	Number of tests to drains	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
	Number of houses served by these drains	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	26
14	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS :—								
	Number of Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
	Number of Bakehouses	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	13
15	CLERICAL WORK, ETC.								
	Letters written	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	197
	Notices to repair houses	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	206
	Statutory Notices H.I.A.	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	Statutory Notices P.H.A.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	Notices to Schools	..	..	...	...	..	...	..	11
	Water Certificates granted	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	11
									435
	Committee and Council Meetings attended	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
	Reports submitted	..	..	..	..	..	..	...	12
	Number of cases dealt with in Committee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	85

A. J. CAMPBELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

F. RICKETTS,
Sanitary Inspector.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1913,

FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ROSS,

On the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

PREMISES.								Inspections.	Number of		Prosecutions.
									Written Notices.		
FACTORIES	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	..	—	..
(Including Factory Laundries).											—
WORKSHOPS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	Nil	..
(Including Workshop Laundries).											Nil
WORKPLACES	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—		—	..
(Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)											—
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	..	—	..

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—*								Number of Defects.		Referred to	Number
								Found.	Remedied.	H.M.	of
Want of Cleanliness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	Nil	..
											Nil

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—Home Work.—Nil.

4 —Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.											Number.
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Blacksmiths, Carpenters..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Total number of Workshops on Register	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30

5.—Other Matters.—Nil.

A. J. CAMPBELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

8th June, 1914.

